

# Nassau County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Public Survey Results

August 6, 2020



HAGERTY

# Public Survey Results

## SURVEY SAMPLE

The Nassau County Hazard Mitigation Outreach Survey was live from **June 12, 2020 to July 20, 2020** on Survey Monkey. It received **277 responses**. The demographic breakdown of the survey sample was predominantly composed of more white respondents than is representative of Nassau County. Ten percent of the County is Asian American and 13% is African American, whereas only 0.4% and 2.8% of the respondents were Asian American and African American, respectively. Also, half of the survey sample was composed of respondents over 65, although only 18% of Nassau County's population is over 65. **A majority (52%) of responses came from four jurisdictions:** Village of Flower Hill (66), Town of Hempstead (32), Valley Stream (30), and Village of Great Neck Plaza (20).

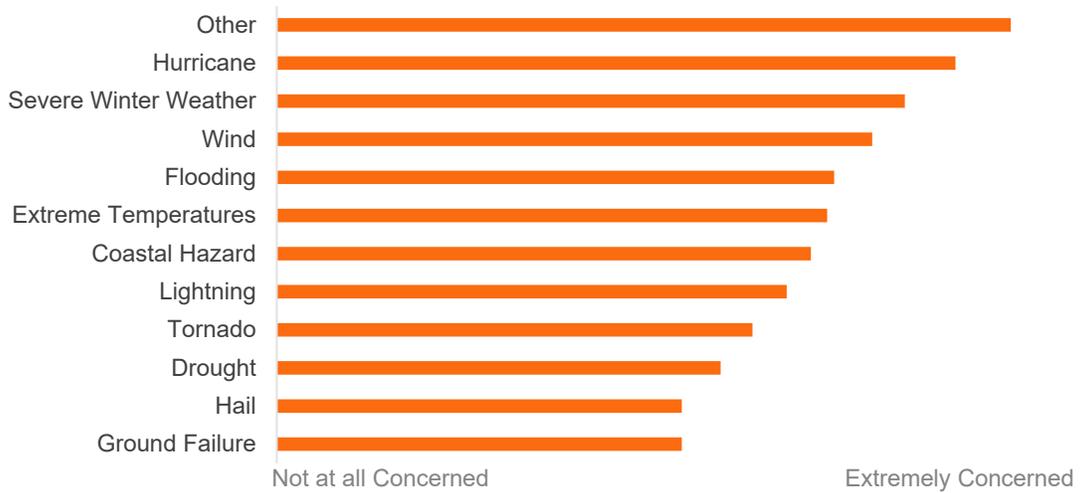
## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Respondents **ranked hurricanes and other types of hazards as most concerning and hail and ground failure as the least concerning** (Figure 1). "Other" types of hazards may have ranked so high in part because this survey was administered as the nation was experiencing the coronavirus pandemic and widespread Black Lives Matters protests in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Specific response options were not provided for either.
- When asked about hazards that concerned them but were not listed, most respondents listed:
  - Pandemics;
  - Fires;
  - Man-made disasters (terrorism, looting and unrest);
  - Trees falling;
  - Difficulty getting people to shelters or evacuating the island if necessary (congestion);
  - Power outages; or
  - Supply chain disruptions that lead to food, electricity, or other shortages.



Figure 1

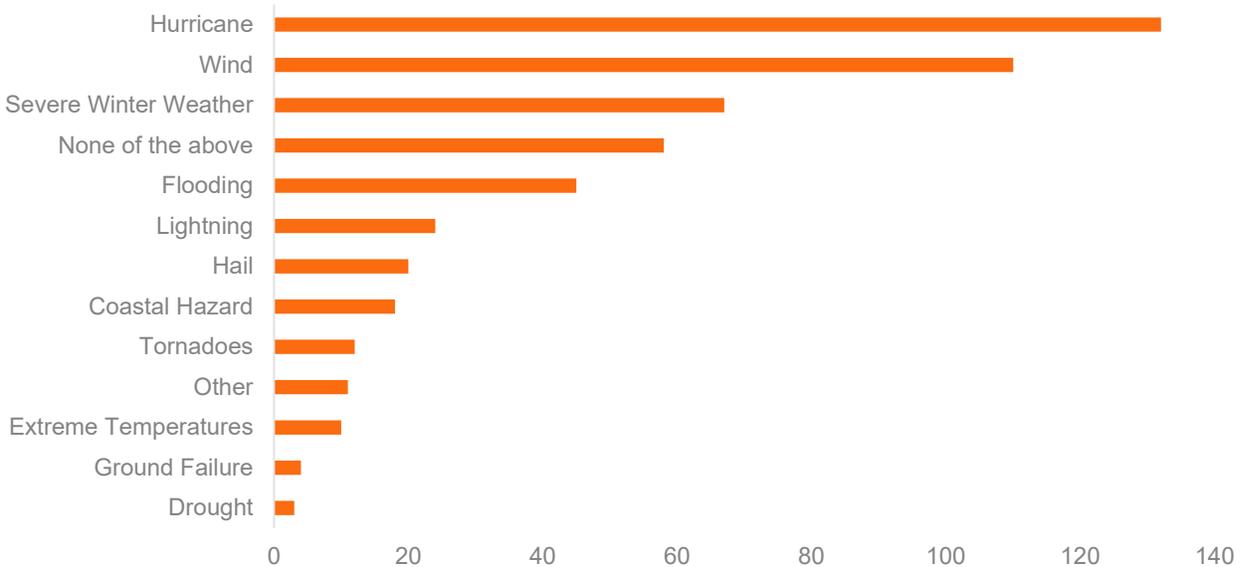
### How concerned are you about the following hazards?



- The most experienced hazards were hurricanes, severe winter weather, and wind. Very few respondents indicated they had experienced drought, hail, or ground failure (Figure 2).<sup>1</sup>

Figure 2

### Which of these hazards have caused damage to people or property at your place of residence?

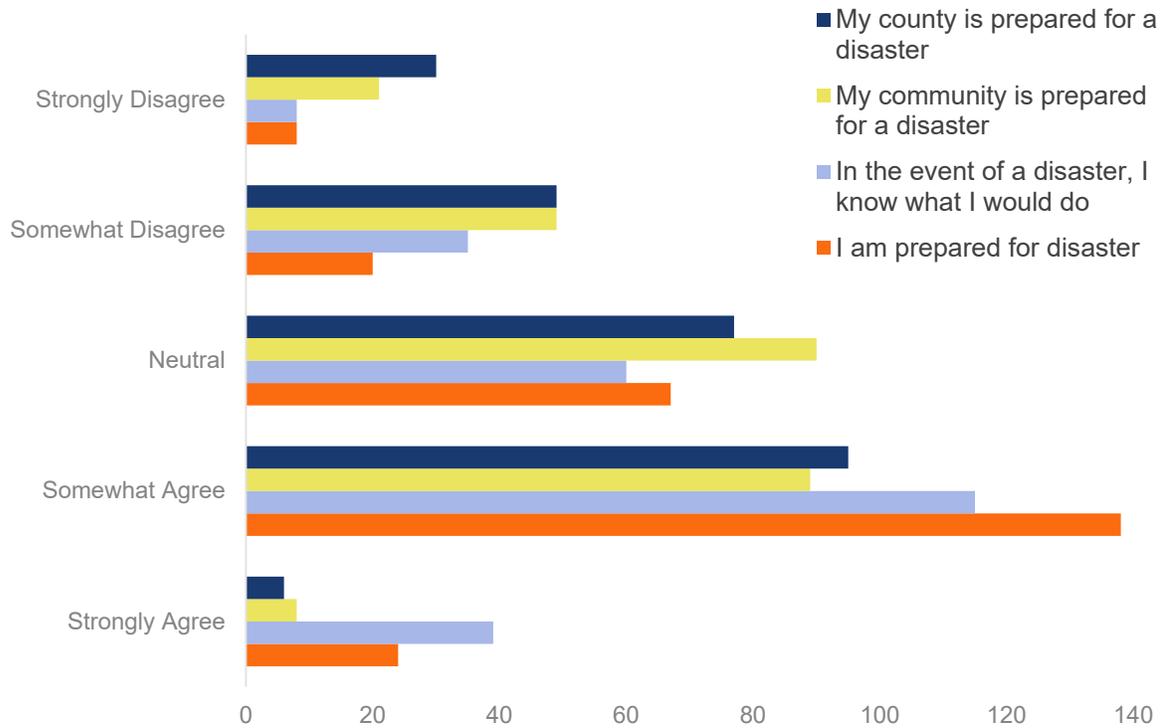


<sup>1</sup> Respondents could select multiple hazards in this section.



- In general, **respondents thought they were more prepared for disasters than their county and community** (Figure 3).

Figure 3



- **The majority of respondents had modified their property to make it safer** (Figure 4). Besides the listed options (Figure 5), the **most common modifications were buying generators or installing French drains**.

Figure 4

Have you made improvements to protect your property from natural hazards?

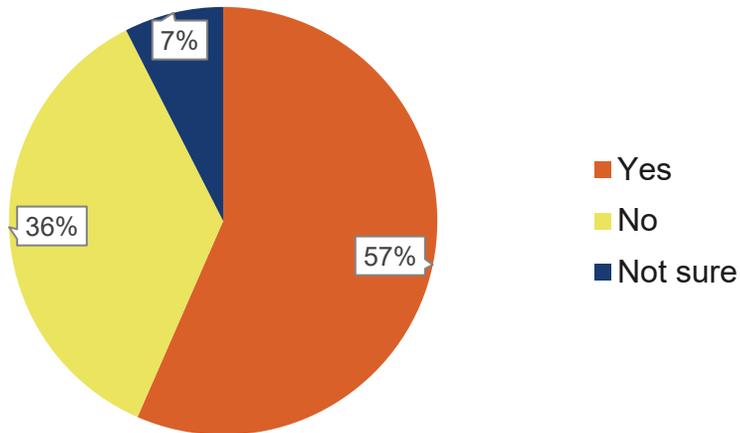
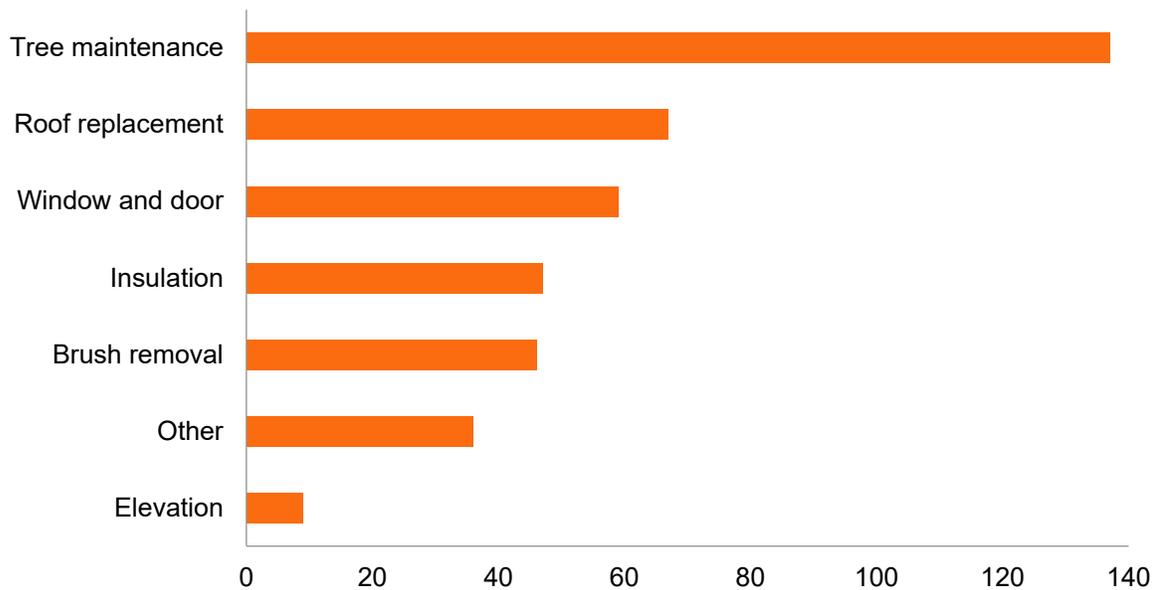


Figure 5

What improvements have you made?



- **Fewer than 20% of respondents knew they had flood insurance** (Figure 6). The most common reason not to have flood insurance was **living on high ground** (Figure 7). The most common explanation for respondents who selected other was not living in a flood zone.

Figure 6

### Do you have flood insurance?

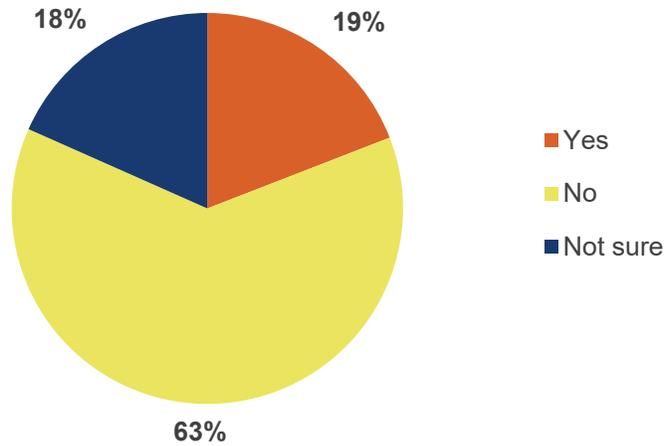
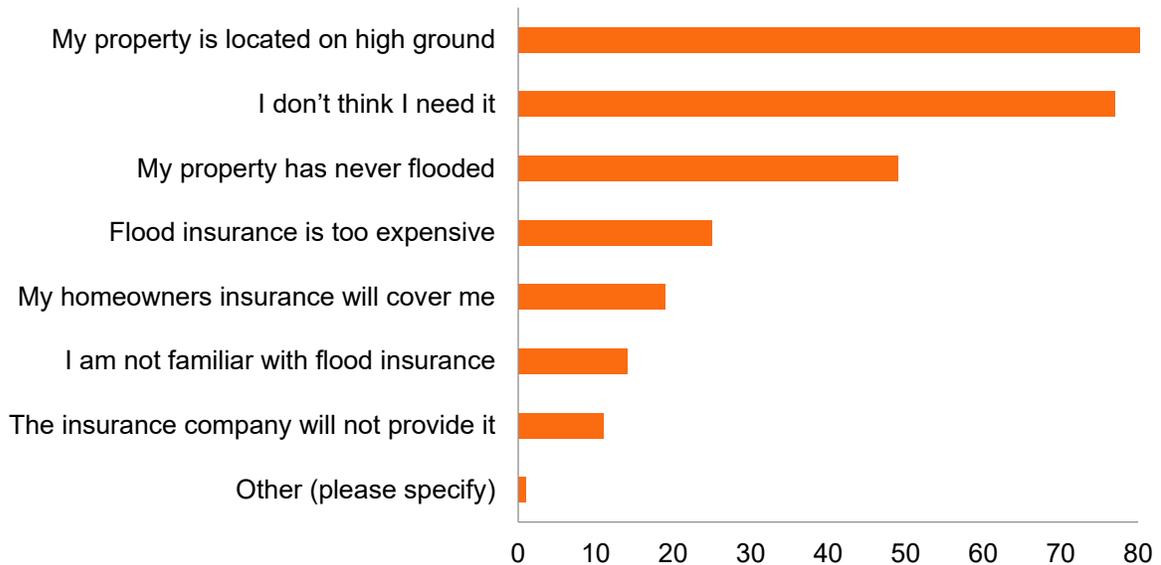


Figure 7

### Why don't you have flood insurance?

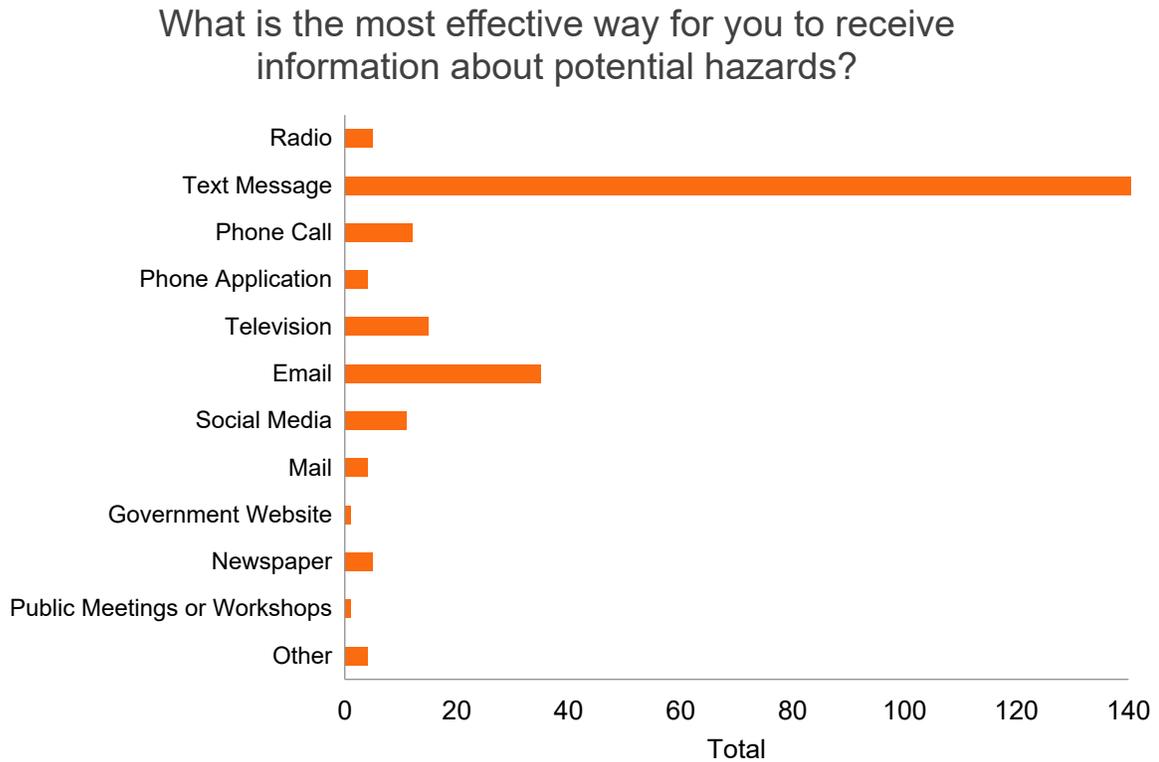


- When asked if they had anything to add about suggestions for ways Nassau County could prepare for future disasters, respondents identified a wide variety of actions, including:
  - Publicizing plans so the community knows what to expect during a disaster;
  - Communicate with the public more during, before, and after disasters;
  - Respondents suggested many options, including an app, text alerts, email updates, a website, and distributing paper copies of evacuation routes
  - Building resilience into electrical infrastructure through mitigation projects and investment in modern upgrades to the grid, including:
    - Burying powerlines underground;
    - Purchasing generators for key facilities; and
    - Increasing incentives for solar and wind power.
  - Continue offering Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and other preparedness centered classes.
- Many respondents **referenced Hurricane Sandy as the basis for their suggestions.** A common suggestion related to this event was for Nassau County to improve coordination with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials and local utilities post-disaster.



- By far, the **most effective way to reach respondents is through text**, followed by email (Figure 8).<sup>2</sup> Many respondents expressed the need for better county-wide communication about disasters and texting is likely the most effective way to meet that need.

Figure 8



- **96** respondents **provided their email addresses** to receive updates about the hazard mitigation process. A few also respondents also requested updates on the results of the survey.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents could select multiple options on this question.

